



Sheffield & Rotherham

Hen harrier by
Mark Hamlin/2020VISION



Annual Review 2017-18

For nature, for everyone

About Us

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust is a registered charity and works with the local community towards a better future for wildlife, people and the green spaces we all rely on. We are part of a national network of 46 Wildlife Trusts, working together for a better deal for nature and people locally and in the wider world.

From our CEO

2017-18 has been another exciting year for the Trust as we work towards our vision of a Living Landscape – an amazing green landscape for the wildlife and people of Sheffield and Rotherham, which is understood, enjoyed and cared for by local people and organisations.

Highlights this year include publishing the *Sheffield State of Nature 2018* report, which we hope will be a catalyst for nature conservation across Sheffield, and securing two new nature reserves in Low Spring Wood and Kilnhurst Ings.

Sadly, despite successfully co-hosting Hen Harrier Day in the summer, issues relating to moorland management, including the use of snares, continue to be a concern for us and our members, which we will continue to oppose, along with proposals to extend the badger cull to South Yorkshire.

We look forward to connecting more local people with nature next year through exciting new projects including the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership, Natural Neighbours, Data for Nature and Working for Nature.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to our Trustees and also a big thank you to all our partners, funders, members and volunteers – without your ongoing support none of this would have been possible.

Liz Ballard, CEO



Left and top right: dingy skipper and pied flycatcher by Rob Miller.
Bottom right: The Deputy Lord Mayor helps cut the tape at our Woodhouse Washlands celebration.

Creating a Network for Nature

We take care of 16 nature reserves, totaling 590 hectares, across Sheffield and Rotherham.

- Twenty-three species of butterfly were recorded at Centenary Riverside in 2017, including the common blue, brown argus and dingy skipper, and for the first time in many years, we recorded a nesting pair of pied flycatcher at Wyming Brook after working hard to improve the woodland for them.
- We're delighted to be taking on two new nature reserves: Low Spring Wood is a 4.5 hectare semi-natural ancient woodland site adjacent to Greno Woods; and Kilnhurst Ings in Rotherham is now on a 25-year lease to the Trust from the Environment Agency.
- Thanks to funding from Viridor Credits, we've created nine new ponds and restored two existing ponds at Woodhouse Washlands, as well as extending the network of wet ditches and completing work on a new footpath, officially opened by the Deputy Lord Mayor.
- We published the *Sheffield State of Nature 2018* report – the first of its kind and the exciting culmination of our two-year Nature Counts partnership project – assessing how Sheffield's wildlife and wild spaces are faring.

"Had my first visit down to Woodhouse Washlands today (after a long absence) and I must say I'm extremely impressed with the work carried out not only for the wildlife but also the wild flowers that will hopefully flourish... I'm happy to say I'm looking forward to making Woodhouse Washlands my new wildlife patch!"

– social media message



Connecting People with Nature

We connect people with the natural world through outdoor learning and community engagement projects.

- Over 4,000 children took part in our outdoor learning activities, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery, and BBC One's *The Really Wild Show* presenter and The Wildlife Trusts' Vice President Nick Baker also paid a visit to our new Academy of Danger in Greno Woods!
- We engaged over 1,000 people in volunteering and citizen science, including helping to map Sheffield's bluebells through Nature Counts, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project also had an exhibition at Weston Park Museum.
- In its first year, Natural Neighbours – funded by The Big Lottery's Reaching Communities programme – is already enabling communities in Rotherham to connect with local greenspaces through a Young Rangers scheme for young people in Eastwood and Closer to Nature walks for refugees and asylum seekers, delivered in partnership with the British Red Cross.

- Once again, our Big Lottery-funded Wild at Heart project has had a huge impact on the lives of older people in Sheffield and Rotherham, with over 1,250 attendances at a range of events designed to improve health and wellbeing by connecting with nature.



"Today was a lovely experience and it was wonderful to see how little the ancient woods have changed since I was a young child and my mum and I used to walk there, happy memories. I am sure, despite it being a little cooler than late, all the group must have left today feeling fresh and happier, and many of us with photographs of the bluebells and wonderful trees."

– Wild at Heart participant

Taking Action for Nature and Wildlife

We campaign for wildlife and inspire people and organisations to take action too.

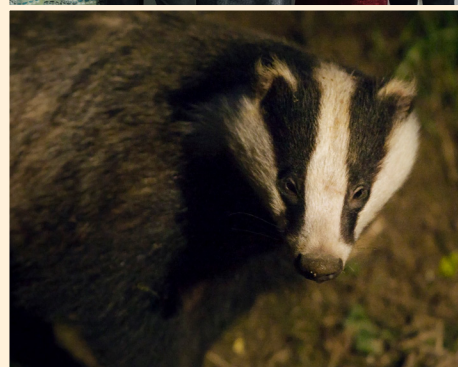
- We met with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, when he visited Sheffield in September to discuss street trees with the local community. We managed to bring various parties together to help retain and only lightly prune the Chelsea Road elm tree, home to a colony of white-letter hairstreak butterflies.
- We attended Sheffield City Council's Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for the second time and met with Sarah Champion, MP for Rotherham, to promote the benefits of natural flood risk management.
- We secured the signatures of the majority of our local MPs for the Greener UK Pledge for the Environment to protect wildlife and nature post-Brexit.
- We co-hosted Hen Harrier Day in the summer and launched our 'Our Moors' campaign for an end to wildlife persecution and intensive moorland management practices.
- Over 40 people attended our badger night and we encouraged our members and the public to respond to numerous consultations, including the proposals to extend the badger cull to South Yorkshire.

"Thank you very much for the short piece, in your News in Brief column, updating us on the situation regarding the Chelsea Road elm tree. Firstly, I am delighted with the outcome of your involvement. It sounds like the tree and its resident butterflies have been preserved for the future. I was gratified also with your clear, concise and balanced piece of reporting."

– Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust member

The Future

- Our new Data for Nature project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, will help the Trust understand the wildlife and habitats on our nature reserves in more detail, helping to address a key recommendation of the *Sheffield State of Nature 2018* report; to address gaps in the city's ecological data.
- Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, our four-year Working for Nature project will provide a chance for people to work in conservation who may not otherwise get the opportunity to receive the necessary training and experience.
- We will be publishing our 100th issue of *Kingfisher*, our members' magazine, in spring 2019!
- We will continue to fight for wildlife, especially through our key campaigns including Save Smithy Wood, Our Moors, and getting a good deal for wildlife from HS2.
- We will continue to campaign for a strong Environment Act, with a more powerful green watchdog and robust laws that will enable nature's recovery.



From top: Nick Baker visits our Academy of Danger at Greno Woods; bluebells in Low Spring Wood; Natural Neighbours; mountain hare by Luke Massey/2020VISION; Angela Smith MP with the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust team; badger by Neil Aldridge.

Income
£1,326,119

2016-17

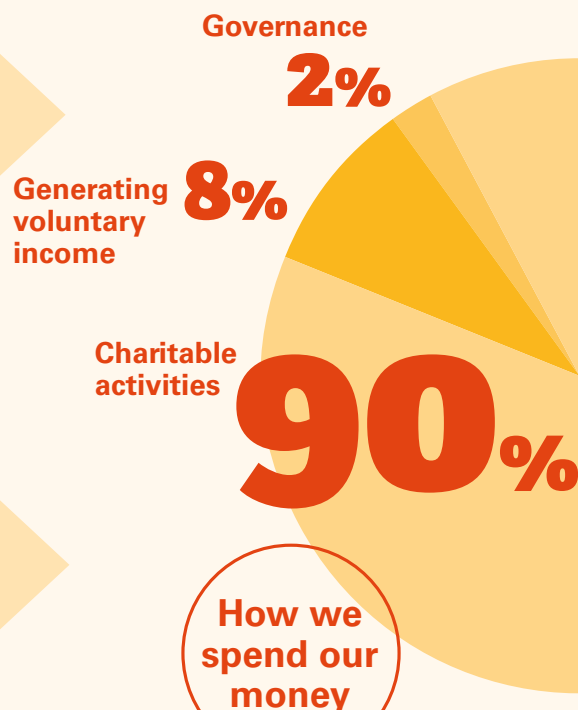
Expenditure
£1,189,978

Income
£1,518,799

2017-18

Expenditure
£1,424,953

Financial Summary



Thank you to our partners



Museum Sheffield



Sheffield
Hallam
University



e-on



INK & WATER



Our Trustees: C Pennell, Chair • D Bird, Vice Chair • T Dodd, Treasurer • K Craik • B Higgins • C Lea • S Leckie • A Parker
A Perrins • A Puritz • F Snowdon • P Warren (to 21 September 2017) • T Whiting (to 21 September 2017)
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